



# CONNECTICUT

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT  
1066 Saybrook Road  
Haddam, Connecticut 06438

*John Guskowski, President  
Judy Rondeau, Vice President  
Barbara Kelly, Treasurer  
Margot Burns, Secretary*

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday 05/15/18, 3:30 – 6:00pm**  
**UConn Extension Center / CT RC&D Office**  
**1066 Saybrook Road, Haddam, CT 06438**

**Board Members in Attendance:** John Guskowski, Margot Burns, Jim Sipperly, Rick Huntley, Jim Costello, Justin LaFountain, Lynne Pike DiSanto; Joanna Shapiro, Judy Rondeau, Aaron Budris, Rosa Brown

**Board Members not in Attendance** Matt Fulda, MaryEllen Kowalewski, Mark Nielsen, Jim Larkin, Francis Pickering, Barbara Kelly, Rebecca Andreucci, Mark Goetz, Lois Bruinooge

**Other:** Jeanne Davies, Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Andrea Peres, Tom Morgart

John Guskowski called the meeting to order at 3:42pm and noted that there was a quorum.

**Secretary's Report:**

Discussion: Amendment to the agenda.

**Motion:** To change the date of minutes to be approved in item 2 of agenda from March 19, 2018 to April 4, 2018 and to accept the meeting minutes as presented.

**Motion made by:** Rick Huntley

**Seconded by:** Judy Rondeau

**Voted:** Motion passed unanimously.

Joanna Shapiro arrived.

**President's Report:**

John reported on ERT funding that was made available within the passed current 2 year state budget, with separate allocations being approved for the current (2017-18) fiscal year and the next fiscal year. It is unclear as to how and when this funding will be distributed, particularly as RC&D is not referenced by name in the budget, but has a 48 year history of administering the ERT program, which is referenced. We are talking with the Conservation Districts and the Council on Soil and Water Quality concerning the drafting of letters emphasizing partnership to CT DEEP, one letter with partners and one from RC&D, reminding them of our longstanding stewardship and management of the ERT programs, to ask for timely disbursement. Partners thought that a project with the State Dept. of Public Health concerning source water protection would be a good project to consider through an ERT application. This could be a large project of statewide utility that would help remind state agencies and legislators of the value and potential of the ERT program.

Rosa Brown arrived.

It was stated that NRCS and EPA are also working on source water protection. Blue-green algae and bacteria counts are rising in the reservoirs of the state.

**Motion:** To authorize staff and President to send letters to the state concerning disbursement of ERT funding, one as a partnership letter with Conservation Districts and one as an informational resource to DEEP about the ERT program history

**Discussion:** Do we have a backlog of ERT's that we should be concerned about as far as funding objectives and there are concerns about staffing levels at conservation districts.

**Motion made by:** Jim Sipperly

**Seconded by:** Rick Huntley

**Voted:** Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:**

**Motion:** To table the treasurer's report until the next meeting.

**Motion made by:** Jim Sipperly

**Seconded by:** Judy Rondeau

**Voted:** Motion passed unanimously.

**Budget Discussion:** FY 2019

The executive committee met and gave direction to Jeanne for development of 3 budget proposals. The executive committee feels that we should keep current staffing levels within limits to maintain the gains we have made as an organization in the last year. There was a consensus of the board to continue to develop the draft budget which maintains current staffing levels.

**Annual Meeting:**

The annual meeting, Rural Lands / Rural Towns Conference, will celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and will be held at Allen Hill Farm in Brooklyn on June 13th. There will be 2 awards presented. The *Norma O'Leary 2018 Award for Excellence in Agriculture Innovation*, and the *Linda B. Krause Award for Excellence in Conservation Collaboration*.

**Nominations for Officers:**

Pending no new requests to be considered for an officer position the slate of officers will remain the same for FY 2019. With the retirement of Barbara Kelly that position will be left empty.

**Other Items:**

NRCS - Job Jump Start timing and funding is in question at this time. Other RFP's could be forthcoming and NRCS needs champions for oysters, plastics, and clams.

Andrea has sent out fund raising packets for Tour de Farms and for booths at the annual meeting and conference.

1<sup>st</sup> CACEE project meeting with Conway School in Haddam went very well. 25 to 30 people attended.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:24

**Motion made by:** Judy Rondeau

**Seconded by:** Rick Huntley

**Voted:** Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted: Margot Burns, Secretary